

**ST. PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

 **12 Ballymacbredan Road, Magheralin, Craigavon. BT67 OQU**

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**Principal: Mrs. M. McGrath. BA(QTS), PQHSH, DipPD.**

**‘Together we learn, together we grow, developing our future, wherever we go!’**

1st September 2020

Dear Parents

First, on behalf of the whole school team, I welcome you and your children back to school. It was wonderful to see our Primary 7 children begin their new school year from last Monday and now today to see our children from Primary 1 to Primary 6 join them on their return to school.

We have been without our children in school for what has been a very long time and we are aware that we must ensure that they feel safe and settled back into school life.

Routines around the school and our classrooms will be different. We intend to use the month of September to reintegrate our children back into school and to familiarise them with the new routines that will take place and the reasons why.

The month of September will also allow our teacher’s to work with your children to ascertain their current learning position, to inform the future teaching and learning process. This will allow us to prioritise areas that need attention. September will be very important in establishing solid foundations for future learning this year.

Below you shall find a list of information that will be useful.

**School** **Closure Dates for 2020/2021**

- Tuesday 1st September – School re-opens for the new school year!

- Monday 26th to Friday 30th October -School closed - Halloween break & Staff

 Development

- Wednesday 23rd December – Friday 1st January 2021 -School Closed - Christmas

 break

- Monday 15th – Friday 19th February - School Closed - Half Term

- Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th March - School Closed - St Patrick’s celebration & Staff

 Development

- Wednesday 31st March – Friday 9th April - School Closed – Easter break

- Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th May - School closed - Bank Holiday & Staff Development

- Monday 31st May and Tuesday 1st June – School closed – Bank Holiday & Staff Development

- Wednesday 30th June - School closes for the academic year.

**Please note that you should not take family holidays during term times**.

**One Way System in school**

We are operating a one-way system inside and outside the school building. We ask that as far as possible all parents drop their children off at the playground gate. Any parent walking their child into the school playground must follow the one-way system.

**School Uniform**

* School P.E. Uniform should be worn on each day.
* School trainers should be worn daily. Please ensure that they are Velcro strapped if your child cannot tie their own lace.
* Jumpers get lost. Parents are advised to label their child’s uniform.
* Provide your child with a coat each day. We aim to bring the children out to play and exercise every day.

**School Times**

The school day is busy and to get the very best from your children and the curriculum, punctuality is very important. The school’s Educational Welfare Officer monitors attendance and punctuality. Teachers must note lateness for records. School times are as follows;

* 9:00am School Opens
* 2:00pm P1-3 Home Time (P3 finish at 2pm Term 1 and Term 2 only)
* 3:00pm P4-7 Home Time

**Reminder: ALL children will go home at 2pm each Friday.**

**Breakfast, Drop off and Afterschool Club**

Arrangements for Breakfast Club and Drop Off Club will continue this year.

Breakfast Club - 8am - £2.50 per child per morning

Drop Off Club – 8:30am - £1:20 per child per day

Please note that bookings must be made 1 full week in advance. These bookings are also non-refundable. You must also receive text confirmation of your booking before your child arrives. We can NOT accept any child who has not been previously booked in.

**Homework**

As our children are settling back to school, Homework will begin gradually throughout the month of September.

**Dinners**

Reminder: Only those children entitled to Free School Meals will be able to access dinners at this point.

**Free School Meals application forms** are available from the Education Authority. Please contact the EA as soon as possible if you wish to avail of a Free School Meal for your child/ren. (Tel no. 028 3751 2523)

**Medication**

Please be advised that our staff is not trained in giving medication to children in school.

Hopefully most medications can be administered before and after the school day by a parent.

If your child requires medication please inform their class teacher with a note, clearly identifying the purpose of the medication and when it should be taken. The medication must be put into a clear bag with your child’s name and class written on it.

Your child should be able to administer the medication by themselves. If they cannot administer it themselves, please contact the school to organise arrangements for it to be administered by you, or an approved adult.

If your child has a medical condition whereby their medication is stored in school, please contact your child’s class teacher to ensure that the medication is still in date.

**School Data**

Over the last number of years, we have noticed changes in the various contact details that we hold on our children. If a parent thinks their child’s details may have changed, please request a new data collection sheet from the school office. **It is very important that contact numbers are kept up to date in case of emergencies.** We would ask that you request and return this form as part of an email, as far as possible.

**School Grounds**

It is asked that parents park in the allocated spaces only. **Bays are for drop off and pickups only.** The children may be dropped off at the school gate as we have a direct path to the school. The safety of the children is our primary concern. Please also be mindful of residents parking and access to their premises.

**PHA Guidance**

In line with Covid 19 Public Health Agency Guidance, your child **should not attend school** if he/she displays any symptoms of the virus, including

• **a high temperature**
• **a new, continuous cough**
• **anosmia** - the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell (it can also affect your sense of taste)

Should your child become symptomatic throughout the school day you will be telephoned and asked take your child home from school immediately. Symptomatic children will be taken to a separate room in school, where they shall wait for you to pick them up. Please ensure that you have arrangements in place for your child to be picked up from school promptly should they become unwell.

All symptomatic pupils and staff are expected to follow PHA advice and obtain a test for COVID-19.

Schools are advised that there is no need to inform other pupils and parents that a child has been sent home with COVID-19 symptoms.

If we have a confirmed case of Covid-19 the school will notify PHA Contact Tracing Service who will advise of next steps. A Risk Assessment will be undertaken at school to determine any individuals/classes affected and parents will be notified. This may mean the closure of one or more classes and you will be asked not to send your child/ren into school. EA cleaning service will also be notified to support enhanced cleaning measures.

Please further note that in circumstances where we are unable to arrange teaching cover due to staff shortages/absences, we may have to ask a class or classes to remain at home. This will be a last resort action.

We are all delighted to be back in school together again and look forward to a great school year. We ask for your continued prayers and support as the school year progresses.

Yours sincerely

Mrs McGrath

PRINCIPAL